



ANNIE BUDDEN'S  
NOBLE WORK

:: YOUNG WOMAN'S SERIES, NO. 2 ::

B y F R A N C E S J . B A K E R



Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, Methodist Episcopal Church  
36 Bromfield Street, Boston, Massachusetts



MISS ANNIE BUDDEN

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# Annie Budden's Noble Work



How the founder and builder of the Social Settlement and Institutional Work at Pithoragarh, India, succeeded in uplifting humanity.

By Miss Frances J. Baker.



JUST twenty-four years ago, in 1880, a young English woman, Miss Annie Budden, allied herself to the work of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and entered Pithoragarh in the Shor Valley, ninety miles from the railway, with the closed lands of Nepal and Tibet on the east, the one twelve the other seventy miles distant, and fifty miles from the nearest European settlement, Naini Tal, on the west. The place is 5,000 feet above the sea, surrounded by summits higher still, while far in the north, against the sky, rises the snowy range of the Himalayas. On one of these surrounding mountains, three miles distant, is Chandag, a leper settlement,

and for many years the self-exiled home of Mary Reed.

The Shor Valley is about six miles wide, and is dotted over with villages which look picturesque from the distance, with the white-washed stone walls of the houses looking out from plaintain, pomegranate and walnut trees, and surrounded by fields of grain, or pastures from which may be heard the tinkling bells of flocks of sheep.

"Beautiful as it all is, and peaceful to outward appearance, there is no more needy mission field in heathendom than this," said Miss Thoburn. "On every high hill and under every green tree" is a shrine or temple of some god.

The people worship evil spirits, whom they

believe to be deities, rather than wood and stone representatatives of the gods. Sad to say, this is not all. Within the pretty villages are found not only squalid poverty and filth, but sin in its worst forms. A peculiar form of polygamy is practised. A man may marry as often as he wishes, but when he takes a new wife, the other usually must go. She is not received again by her parents, and unless she is stronger and purer than could be expected from her ignorance, she wanders away, and "her feet go down to death."

Mrs. Gray, sister of Miss Budden, had opened a village school in Pithoragarh. Four of the older girls came from abodes of sin and shame, and asked for the shelter and teaching of a Christian home. She took them under her care, and on her own responsibility assumed their support until they and others were provided for by the Woman's Missionary Society.

In 1880 Miss Budden was appointed to have charge of this providential opening. At once she planned to make the institution, "Home

for the Homeless," self-supporting. "Those who do not work shall not eat," she said.

Miss Budden was born in India, and loved this hill-work. Her father, the late Rev. J. H. Budden, was for many years a beloved missionary at Almorah in the same province. Ten years before she entered upon this institutional work, God was preparing the way for a helper. One day her sister found two very pretty little girls, with unmistakably European features, though dressed in native clothes, running barefoot in the Almorah bazaars. Those little bare white feet so appealed to her sympathy that her father had the family—sick European father and native mother—brought into the mission premises. Years afterward, on his deathbed, the father committed these girls to the Christian care of Mr. Budden. He sent them to Lal Bagh school in Lucknow, but one of them, Ellen Hayes, drooped and pined in the heat of the plains, and at twelve years of age Annie persuaded her father to give the girl to her to teach and train. In due time she became just



the helper needed, and has been her joy and comfort during all these twenty-four years. She studied medicine, and has spent much of her time in medical evangelistic itinerating.

Land was purchased, which was subsequently added to until there were one hundred and fifty acres; cottages were erected from stone taken from the land; a day-school was maintained during a part of the year, and faithful religious instruction was given daily. Both women and girls work a part of each day in the terraced fields, sowing or reaping their rice and wheat and millet, and weeding or preparing the grain for food. Only the plowing is beyond their strength, and as the work grew, appropriations for plowmen and a farm manager were made, and cattle and other stock were purchased.

In 1883 Miss Florence Nickerson was appointed to the school, but the loneliness and isolation were almost too much for her, and the second and last year she was accompanied by Phebe Rowe.

Miss Budden's health demanded a change,

and she came to America, where she impressed all whom she met with her simplicity and earnestness, as well as devotion and strength of character. Friends with their donations enabled her to enlarge her plant. Farm implements were also given her, a corn sheller, corn grinder, Fairbanks scales, and a windmill, which latter was put up without the aid of an engineer, the task being directed by Miss Budden.

On her return she was received with an ovation eight miles long, as she was first met by her adopted daughter, Ellen Hayes, accompanied by the native pastor and doctor, and later in the day by a large gathering with flags and banners and clean white chuddars, and then by men and boys, servants of the house and farm, and some of the first women of the Home. When she got back into her *dandi*, the four plowmen picked it up and carried her for a short distance in triumph. There were flowers and arches and mottoes, songs of welcome, and loving embraces, strong arms of the happy girls who, two at a time, bore her along, making the

merriest, most joyous procession ever seen in that valley.

The work developed, improvements were made, but better than these material advancements was the growth in Christian experience and character among the women and girls.

In 1887 a terrible scourge of cholera broke in upon all this prosperity. It had been creeping on for months, but somehow Miss Budden did not share with others the fear that it might come nigh her dwelling. Besides, how could she move eighty-five women and girls to a hill twelve miles distant, and face the problem of feeding them, or leave the farm, cattle and storeroom, and grain cut but ungathered? When it broke out in a village at her very door, she sent the girls in care of Ellen Hayes and Alice Tresham, who had been providentially led in coming to her assistance before, to the Thakil, a mountain 7000 feet high. The villagers had become panic-stricken. With difficulty men were found, and a month's provisions sent up at once to the girls, and alone, so far as

human guidance was concerned, she faced and fought the cholera for two months. Soon one of her women was attacked, then another. The native doctor fled, the servants vanished, but the women of the Home proved the value of the training they had received, as did also her two oldest girls back on vacation from the medical school at Agra. Twenty-six women and five babies were sent to the girls' rooms, while she and two of the women watched and worked over the poor sufferers. All night long, in the surrounding villages, was heard the din of drums and hideous screeching of the *devil dances* to ward off the cholera. When the first woman died, no one would come near the place. The native Christians had wives and children and were terror-stricken. It was useless to call them, so she asked her women to dig a grave. A sad procession of six or eight turned out with spades and hoes. She and the other two nurses tied up the body in a blanket and carried it out as best they could, and with a short prayer buried it at six in the morning. Again at six in the

evening there was another grave, another heart-broken prayer, and back to the third, who she felt must soon follow ; but special divine guidance was given in answer to prevailing prayer, remedies were blessed and the child recovered. Then twenty-two of the women and the five babies, in charge of the two medical students, were sent off to another high hill. Seven voluntarily stayed behind ; two were ill. All were attacked, but chlorodyne and alcohol restored them.

Her trusted co-workers became so anxious that Alice Tresham walked down the twelve miles in the hot sun to keep her company, Ellen Hayes remaining with the girls on a place that was miles from any village, surrounded by thick woods frequented by bears, wild pigs, monkeys and sometimes leopards. One of the girls came down with the cholera, and Ellen sent the rest to the woods, after detailing eight of the older ones to care for the sufferer. Miss Budden secured a pony, and hurried to her assistance. Three days

later she was helped and comforted by the arrival of a native Christian doctor, Harkwa Wilson, who remained a week, until the girl was out of danger. Miss Tresham broke down with the extra nursing, and as the only horse available refused to carry Miss Budden back, she walked, and, on reaching home, rejoiced to find that a fellow-missionary, Miss Blackmar, had been sent to her assistance. She remained two weeks. Then came the hard and difficult task of reconstruction.

In 1888 Miss Martha A. Sheldon, M. D., was appointed to Pithoragarh. In the Settlement was the home of these two missionaries, the girls' school, the Home for Homeless Women, several village schools, a Christian community, the work also including church services, eight Sunday schools, two Epworth Leagues (senior and junior), a mission band, eighteen workers' bands, two Bible readers' classes, and a medical class. And as if this were not enough, five years later these two women went a four days' march toward the

eternal snows, to Darchula, on the border of Tibet, prospecting among the Bhotiyas there for a new mission center, which they subsequently started, with the aid of volunteers from among their own trained workers.

During the past twelve or fourteen years, aside from the assistance mentioned, Miss Budden has alone developed and cared for all these varied interests. She trained her own helpers, which, in 1894, consisted of four European assistants, twelve Bible women, and the wife of the native pastor. There were sixty-nine women in the Home, and eighty-nine girls in the school. Eight of the girls were studying in Almora, three in the Training School at Muttra, and one was learning to be a nurse in Lucknow. There was also a boys' school, with twenty-five pupils, and a little Christian community of about four hundred, who have heard and accepted the Gospel message and confess His name.

In 1902, acting under the advice of friends, Miss Budden left a second time for America,

to remain a year. Miss Lucy Sullivan was appointed to the charge of all this work. While here other plans were revealed to Miss Budden, and she returned to devote the rest of her days to distinctive evangelistic work. She gathered about her a company of ten Bible women, and spent four months training them for Bible teaching, instructing them also, with the assistance of Ellen Hayes, in elementary medicine. She resumed the village schools and the woman's sewing class, which were the foundation of all the Pithoragarh work, but had to be discontinued for lack of funds, placing them in charge of some of the first converts, of twenty-four years ago. She also has with her a native preacher, who is the son of the first inmate of the Woman's Home. With this company of workers, and a magic lantern with beautiful slides, with tracts, books, and medicines for distribution, with tents and furnishings, servants and baggage-men, she goes out (1904) among the villages, marching from three to seven miles a day, visiting the people along



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the way; then halting when they pitch the tents, her Bible women go out two by two, and return at night "tired, but so happy", while with the magic lantern manipulated by the native preacher, Miss Budden preaches sometimes to two hundred people, proclaiming Christ as the Saviour, and the only Saviour from sin.

"There is so much to be done," she writes, "with thousands and thousands around us who have never heard of salvation through the Lord Jesus." In four months they reached 315 villages, treated 933 patients, and showed

the magic lantern to more than 1750 people. They travelled more than 300 miles, Miss Budden in a *dandi* and the women and girls marching. No attempt was made to count their listeners, but they must have numbered many thousands.

She has great confidence that, by the aid of God's Spirit, not only will many individual souls be saved, but the works and the worship of the devil will be destroyed, and many "tormented by evil spirits" and "possessed by the devil" will be set free, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



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